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Foundations of Education

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The sophomore field experience was a meaningful event and I gained a ton of knowledge about teaching as a whole from Mrs. Martin. It was nice to just evaluate and observe rather than being focused on trying to study and learn all the time. When you are able to focus on just learning to learn rather than focus on getting a grade on something all the time it is crazy the amount of information you retain. I picked up on so many teaching techniques, ways to incorporate technology into the classroom, and even ways to get the classes attention. Mrs. Martin’s primary focus was diversifying the information across all of her students so that they could learn the information and remember it long-term. She was a strong advocate in teaching the whole student and by using this method she created and established a lot of long-term relationships. A lot of students come back and visit her and she also has a lot of students mentor her and even do their student teaching with her.

The holistic teaching approach is something that I want to take into consideration. When teaching at a public school this method can be frowned upon a bit but I do feel you can develop the whole student without having such a strong emphasis on religion. I would love to teach at a private school in the future because I would be allowed to use all of the theories from the beginning of mankind to today. I do feel that when teaching at a private high school you are also more at risk to have parents question your teaching methods and how you develop your students.

When money comes into play parents often times feel that their children are receiving the best possible education that they can have but this is not always true. Being a public school graduate I feel that success rates are similar. Private school students often times have the benefit of having wealthy parents. This helps when applying to colleges and when having assistance in education. Students who have more assistance from parents often times are pushed harder to succeed but they are also rebellious at times. I noticed that at O’ Gorman high school In Sioux falls (Private Catholic High School) that there were many successful students who took their education seriously but there were also a lot of students who wanted to do something completely different than the normal.

One of the most memorable experiences for me was when Mrs. Martin told me that correcting papers was fun for about a week and then it gets old. I was able to correct some tests and quizzes for a few of her classes during my sophomore field experience and this was a fun practice for me. It made me feel as if I was the teacher in a way and that students looked up to me a bit. They handed in their tests to me and I corrected and left comments on their test about errors or things they could have added to get full credit. I felt that by leaving little comments next to their questions that the students gained knowledge on what they did wrong and how they could get it right next time.

I loved the sense of freedom that I felt during the whole experience. I was able to watch the students and to walk around the room and see how they worked together. I did not ever answer any questions but I asked a lot of questions to Mrs. Martin without a worry. She was very understanding and helpful. She was the kind of teacher and wants to see people succeed and that is exactly what she did with me. She did want to keep me involved and entertained a bit and I was glad that she was looking out for me. I was always given something to do or too look at when students were taking tests or quizzes. I was able to navigate through their school website as well. I learned about their tuition rates, how the school is funded, and about previous graduates and what they have accomplished.

One of my favorite things about the whole experience was how hands on everything was. I was able to look through lesson plans, future activities that will be performed, and even what the plans were for purchasing new textbooks. I learned a ton from Mrs. Martin and I feel that she could not have made the experience more exciting. It was a respect relationship between us and I believe that she developed a sense of respect for Presentation College as a whole as well. Mrs. Martin introduced me to fellow teachers of hers and even to the principal of Aberdeen Roncalli. I felt like I was supposed to be there and that I was serving a good sense of purpose for the school.

I would not have changed my experience one bit but it would be cool to go to Aberdeen Central and compare and contrast the differences. When you are able to observe a private school for so long it would be nice to see the differences in the public school system now that I am older. When you are a high school student you do not always pick up on these characteristics and you actually have no interest in learning about funding or lesson plans. I would find that observing a public school now that I am older very useful but at the same time I don’t think it would be necessary.

The experience was awesome but if I could change anything I would like to have been a little more involved in the vocal aspect of the experience. I would have liked to help students with their assignments and even assist with answering questions but I do not know how reasonable this idea is. It is more of a wish than anything but sooner than later I will be in my student teaching and I will be able to do all of these things. There is really not a thing I would change about the experience as a whole I met some wonderful people and I will be able to contact Mrs. Martin in the future with advice about different teaching methods. At the end of the field experience I sent her an email thanking her for all that she did and I believe that she was glad she helped me. I was lucky enough to meet her and to observe her class with my hours and hers.

When I look at the questions that still remain I think they are simple ideas that will be learned as I age and advance into my profession. No teaching method works for everyone and when I get to actually began teaching others I believe I will learn a lot about myself. I am excited to see where this career will lead me and I believe I can help many people along the way. I have always wanted to pursue a profession were I can feel a sense of respect and importance and this is the perfect fit for me. I don’t really have any questions about the profession as a whole I am just more excited to see where it takes me.

I feel that this experience helped me to think outside of the box and to kind of mold myself into the teacher I want to become. The experience kind of showed me how to observe teaching as a whole. I now am able to recognize these different teaching methods with professors at Presentation College as well. With having this trait it helps me to understand what works for students and what does not. I feel that as time goes on I will keep developing myself into what kind of methods I am going to use in the future. I understand various teaching methods and techniques that Mrs. Martin taught me and I am going to use those in my near future.

* Teaching methods/techniques

-I learned that there is no right or wrong way to teach students but there are methods that are more beneficial than others. I am going to teach using more of a holistic approach as Mrs. Martin did because I feel it allows me to develop the whole person and this is extremely important to me.

* Classroom activities

-Not every student learns the same way so I learned that creating activities that benefit every student is the most useful. This can vary from PowerPoints, to movies, to volunteers, to lectures, small groups, and even to student presentations. With using all these techniques you can reach out to every individual.

* + - * Mixing it up

-This is beneficial on so many levels because by varying your methods of teaching students can learn by experiences and memories rather than just strict note-taking. This will also help with making class exciting and random each and every day.